

# Office of Governor Mitch Daniels

## Feb. 25-Mar. 2, 2008 Volume 2, Issue 71



# Weekly wrap-up

## Governor visits Hoosier Guardsmen at Fort Stewart, Georgia

Mar. 1, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels visited Friday and Saturday with members of Indiana's 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team at Fort Stewart, Georgia and participated in a departure ceremony. More than 3,000 Indiana Guardsmen are scheduled to depart for Iraq early next month.

"I think the weekend at Fort Stewart was a mixture of emotion and inspiration. It's tough to say farewell to the best citizens we have, the 76th Combat Brigade, but also very uplifting to hear one military person after another testify to how qualified and ready they are for the duty that awaits them. We did our best to thank them individually and as a group and we tried to thank as many family members as we could from the thousands that came down. We have a big responsibility to them while their loved ones are gone and we will live up to it. We know their family members will do honor to Indiana in protecting us and our freedoms," said Daniels.

The governor arrived Friday and heard an update on training the Guardsmen have received, then had dinner with brigade leaders and soldiers, including Specialist Eddie Proctor of New Whiteland. Proctor's younger brother, Sergeant Joseph Proctor of Indianapolis, was killed by enemy fire on May 3, 2006 during Operation Iraqi Freedom after distinguishing himself by exceptionally heroic conduct. In 2006, Governor Daniels awarded Sgt. Proctor's family with the Silver Star award, the third highest honor awarded for valor to a member of the United States Armed Forces. It was the first Silver Star awarded to an Indiana National Guardsman since 1969.

"This is an appropriate sendoff for a tremendous group of men and women that represent the finest qualities of citizenship - they do Indiana proud," said Daniels.



*Feb. 29, 2008- Governor Daniels with Specialist Ed Proctor of New Whiteland at Fort Stewart, Georgia.*



*Feb. 29, 2008- Governor Daniels talks with soldiers from the 76<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team at Fort Stewart, Georgia.*

[Listen](#) to the governor discuss his trip to Ft. Stewart



*Mar. 1, 2008- Governor Daniels thanks a family member of a soldier from the 76<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade at a sendoff ceremony at Fort Stewart, Georgia.*

To view past updates, click [here](#).

To visit Governor Daniels' Web site, click [here](#).

## Governor attends National Governor's Association winter meeting

Feb. 29, 2008- Governor Daniels traveled to Washington, D.C. this week to take part in the National Governor's Association winter meeting.

Daniels joined other governors at a Sunday evening dinner with President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush at the White House. The following morning, the governor participated in the governor's-only meeting with the President.

Before returning to the Hoosier state, Daniels took the opportunity to tout recent policy innovations such as the Healthy Indiana Plan and Major Moves during a speech at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, a not-for-profit institution that studies government, politics, economics and social welfare. The governor also touched on improvements at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), telecom reform, and the state's progress in economic development.

### Did you know...

**...there is an easy way to keep track of bills sent to the governor by the General Assembly? Visit Governor Daniels' 2008 [Bill Watch](#).**

## Daniels urges legislators to support permanent caps

Feb. 28, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels announced that after processing data from the twenty counties for which reassessments were ordered, results show increases of as much as 30% in the value of commercial property.

"In at least half of these counties we've now found there was a substantial undervaluation of business property which meant of course that homeowners were going to be saddled with an unfairly high portion of the tax burden," said Daniels.

[Listen](#) to the governor's media availability

The governor emphasized that the reassessments are only one step toward property tax reform. He urged legislators to adopt his plan for lasting relief and add property tax caps to the constitution. Daniels' caps would permanently limit property tax bills with a one percent circuit breaker on homes, a two percent cap on rental property and three percent on businesses. The governor called the constitutional amendment "essential."

Daniels expressed optimism that the legislature would come together in support of the plan. "This is clearly something that a huge majority of Hoosiers believe is fair, and want. I think the legislators know it. I think that in the end, given the free opportunity to do so, a big majority will vote for it," said Daniels.

## Governor called for jury duty

Feb. 26, 2008- Governor Daniels reported to the City-County building downtown Indianapolis early Tuesday morning after receiving notification that he might be selected to serve as a juror on a civil case. After clearing security, the governor took a seat with a group of other potential jurors.

The jury was filled before the governor was called, but he said he would have happily served. "I've been on jury before. It was a very interesting and informative experience and I told everybody here they ought to hope they'll be chosen," said Daniels.

Noting the sacrifice of the 1,300 Hoosiers headed to Iraq with the 76<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, the governor said jury duty is privilege and civic responsibility. "One day is so little to give back to the country that makes so much possible," said Daniels.

### Did you know...

**...Governor Daniels' website has an interactive map of *your* county? Click [here](#) to see what's happening in your community.**

## Governor names new IEDC board member

Feb. 28, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels has announced the appointment of John T. Thompson to the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) board of directors.

Thompson is president and chief executive officer of Thompson Distribution Company, Inc., a distributor of mechanical supplies in Indianapolis. He also serves as president and CEO of First Electric Supply Company, Inc. and is chairman and CEO of CMID, an architectural engineering design firm.

"John's proven business talent and experience will be a great asset to the IEDC board as it continues to market Indiana worldwide and attract new business to Indiana," said Daniels.

Thompson fills the seat of William Mays, who has resigned.

[Read the news release.](#)

## Racing industry veteran to lead Indiana's motorsports development

Feb. 28, 2008- Racing industry veteran and businessman Rolie Helmling will join the ranks of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation Monday as the state's new motorsports development director.

Helmling joins the state's economic development team three months after stepping down from his post as president and chief executive officer of the United States Auto Club (USAC), a position he held since 2001.

"Rolie brings with him decades of motorsports expertise and experience as a business owner," said Nathan Feltman, Secretary of Commerce and chief executive officer of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. "He will play a key role for the developing economic opportunities in the motorsports sector throughout the state."

"After three decades in the industry, I have seen motorsports evolve and know that there are more great possibilities and opportunities out there for Indiana to pursue that can bring new jobs and investment to the state," Helmling said.

Indiana is home to more than 1,400 motorsports-specific businesses that employ thousands of Hoosiers in jobs that pay approximately 150 percent of the average median income of Indiana's workforce. Known as the "Motorsports Capital of the World" Indiana is also home to the Indy 500, the Allstate 400 at the Brickyard, NHRA's U.S. Nationals and the new Moto GP. The state is also home to the most racetracks per capita of any state in the United States.

[Read the news release.](#)

## Hoosiers in the State House



Feb. 28, 2008- Governor Daniels met with members of Leadership LaPorte County, a non-profit service organization which works to develop community leaders.



Feb. 27, 2008- Governor Daniels met with attendees at the Indiana Biodiesel Reception held in the State House. Pictured left to right: Charlie Smith, Shorty Whittington, Norm Garvin, Governor Mitch Daniels, Andy Card, Tim Solso, Kellie Walsh, David Eaton and John Smitson.

## A look ahead...

Governor Daniels will travel to Morocco and Merrillville this week.